

BARTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

VOLUME XIV.

GREAT BEND, KANSAS, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1897.

NUMBER 32.

SOME "EXPERT" TESTIMONY.

Ira H. Clarke, in the Hoisington Dispatch of last week, relates his experiences with republican commissioners and the various printing deals of the last few years by which the taxpayers of Barton county have been robbed. Ira makes the mistake of intimating that the kind of jobbery he objects to will be continued in the future, and he also fails to state that all his dealings have been with REPUBLICAN boards. We hope the people of the county will see that such a state of affairs will not be possible hereafter.

But, here is Mr. Clark's testimony; read it carefully, Mr. Townsley, and see how well it corroborates our charges against you:

The Great Bend papers are mixed up in a controversy over the letting of the printing of the county ballots. The printing was let to Townsley of the Tribune for \$2 a thousand. The Dispatch had some little experience along that line which did not result in enlarging our cash box to any great extent but gave us a little insight into the way things are worked over at the Great and only Bend. The first year we did the work it was given us because we kicked for something and the republican board by and with the consent of the two republican papers over there gave it to Clark to satisfy him while they whacked up on the county printing. The work was done without a stated price but in order to make us do the work for little money Joe Borders handed in a low bid on the work—this was after we had been given the work and when Borders knew he would not get the job. Of course the commissioners insisted we should do the work as cheap as this bid, even though it was made by one who knew he would not get it and made the offer simply to throttle us and we had to accept a less sum per thousand than was paid in any other county in the west half of Kansas that year. The next year we were given the work and given to understand that at this time we would receive a fair compensation. This time Judge Townsley handed in a statement as to what he would do the work for, naming an extremely low price. So our name was mud, in box car letters, once more, and we had better been working on the section at \$1.10 a day than to have been printing the ballots that year, as Judge Townsley's statement was thrown at us when our bill was presented. The next year the Dispatch was froze out of the deal and Judge Townsley was given the work and allowed \$413.00 or over \$30 a thousand which was more than THREE TIMES as much per thousand as we received when we printed the state ticket in 1894. It is true that the ballots were larger last year but \$25 would pay the entire paper bill and the changes were no harder than in either year the Dispatch printed them. The idea is that the county commissioners have been in time past, and we doubt not will be in the future, determined that no county work shall go outside the county seat, and should an outsider clamor for something and be given some work to quiet him, he is made to do the work so low that he will soon become discouraged and then the party papers at the county seat can demand and receive enormous prices for what they do. All the evil we wish them over there is that they keep up their fight and the county will get its work done for nothing.

A Word From Indiana.

A friend of Mr. E. C. Davis, who has known him from birth hearing that Mr. Davis is the candidate of the silver forces for county clerk, writes from the old home, at Salem, Indiana, to testify to Cliff Davis' worthiness. Among other things he says, in a letter to the DEMOCRAT editor:

DEAR SIR—Learning that you are the Chairman of the Democratic Central Committee of Barton county, Kansas, I take the liberty of writing you in regard to one of your county nominees, namely, E. C. Davis. The writer of these lines having been placed in a position to know your candidate for county clerk well in his boyhood and young manhood days in Washington county, Ind., feels very safe in saying if his "political enemies" will investigate his character and life in his old home county they will never say one word about it until after the election. I see from a Kansas paper that you have a combination ticket, Democrat, Populist and Silver republican, and I heartily wish you success. Permit a Hoosier Democrat to say how this combination business looks to him: At the last National Democratic convention the party surely took a position that ought to satisfy all men that are opposed to the government being run strictly in the interest of large capitalists. It cleared the deck of Clevelandism, Wall Streetism, Gold-bugism and Bossism, and the true democratic principles were proclaimed once more. "The greatest good to the greatest number." That Chicago platform was the unthought verdict of the people, and in spite of all trusts, combinations and money powers within and without the party. So here is a chance for good that should not be thrown away by squandering our strength trying to uphold too many parties—let us all unite on the Chicago platform, and teach the great wealth owners that we, the people, the producers of wealth,

have some rights to look after, and that this government must be run by the people and not by "filthy lucre." Let us cease looking to the east for all our political light. Let the people of the south, middle states and the great west, teach all the world that the obligations they hold against this government are to be paid in legal tender money, gold or silver, 16 to 1, strictly according to contract, and that we have no use or sympathy for violators of contracts.

A Startling Admission.

Here is something that every honest republican ought to read. Grant W. Harrington, editor of the Hiawatha Democrat, is a reputable man and here is what his paper says:

When the republican board of railway assessors under the Morrill administration came to fix the assessment in 1895, they raised the assessed valuation of the Missouri Pacific road one million dollars. In 1897, when a populist board came to consider the assessment, the Missouri Pacific officials asked for a reduction of the road's assessment. Ex-Chief Justice Albert H. Horton appeared for the road and made the argument. In the course of his remarks he made the remarkable statement that in 1894 the republican state central committee made a campaign assessment of ten thousand dollars each on the Missouri Pacific, the Rock Island, the Santa Fe and the Union Pacific roads.

The Missouri Pacific refused to put up, and so just as quick as the opportunity presented itself, its valuation was raised one million dollars as a punishment for the refusal to do so.

This statement was made by Judge Horton, not in private conversation, but in a public argument. There were present at the time Lieutenant Governor Harvey, Secretary of State Bush, Auditor of State Morris and State Treasurer Hefflebower.

This story serves to explain the attitude of the republicans in the late legislature. For the thirty thousand dollars the three roads in 1894, together with the additional assessments put up in 1896, the roads were promised that there should be no hostile legislation. Not a republican member of either the senate or the house had courage enough to disobey the orders of the machine. They had been sold and delivered, bound hand and foot to the railroad lobby.

Voters, let us show a solid front this fall and give an overwhelming rebuke to the party which resorts to above methods. Let every voter who believes that the law-making power should be left with the people and not with the corporations show his colors now and from now on by casting his ballot for the men who are pledged to the reforms so much needed, and now so well put under way. We do not elect a senator or representative this fall, it is true; but we should strengthen our cause for the right by voting for no man for even a county office who will aid the state or national republican party. Vote for your homes and your firesides.

The New Ballot Law.

When it comes to election this fall the voter will note a few changes in the ballot law as it applies to him. In the first place he will get a ticket with his poll list number on its upper right hand corner. This he might not notice at all unless his attention is called to it.

When he gets into the booth and unfolds his ballot on the shelf he will find it don't hang down so far over the edge. It will be much smaller. Then the blank space with its square, under each name, will have disappeared; and if he wants to write the name of a candidate for any office he will have to go over to the column of blank spaces at the right hand side of the ballot.

The tickets on the ballots, he will, if he is a close observer, remark are more plainly separate by a double line. And the square in which to mark the cross that indicates his choice is moved over from the left of the column to the right. This is the greatest change and may prove confusing to some who have got it firmly fixed in their minds that they must mark to the left of the name. But the hand will no longer cover the ticket that is to be voted, and the marking can be done much more readily and conveniently.

The arrangement of the tickets on the ballot is no longer haphazard, or according to the whims of the county clerk or the directions of the state committee of his party which is anxious to confuse the opposition party. The Re-

publican ticket will come first on the ballot, the Republican party having polled more votes than any other party last fall. Next will come the Democratic, more names having been returned as cast under that head than under the Populist; and then the Populist, the Independent and the blank for scattering votes. There will be five tickets on the ballot.

If you want to vote for road overseer you will have to write the name in the space provided at the bottom of the township ticket, as the law forbids them being printed. It also makes it a misdemeanor to vote for any candidate for road overseer not a resident of the voter's road district.

When the ticket is handed to the judge it will be noticed that he takes a pair of scissors and clips off the number written on the corner, before depositing the ticket in the ballot box.

So far as the act of voting is concerned these are the only changes that will be observed in the workings of the new law as compared with the old.

Poor old Tribune man could not—as we last week said he would not—deny the charge that he, and the publisher of the Register before him, had received pay for publishing a part of the commissioners proceedings which the law does not require published, and for which no one but a republican has ever been paid in this county. He does not deny that he got the exorbitant price of \$413 for printing the ballots last year, when he had an opportunity to charge what he pleased and a board that was with him, when he this year, by reason of having competition, offers to do the work for almost nothing. He does not deny these charges, and does not attempt to defend himself, and therefore stands condemned in the public eye. He makes a feeble effort, by falsifying and misconstruction, to defend his course in getting hold of the ballots at any price, and would have his little "passel" of readers believe that the DEMOCRAT is roaring because it did not get the work. Why, my dear, ante-deluvian mossback! The DEMOCRAT is glad, with the rest of the taxpayers of the county, that you will do the work for nothing. And if you do a job that complies with the law, and want to keep on doing the work at that price you are welcome to it. We are not making any grand stand play; and we are not laying for a chance to illegally get our hooks onto public funds. We are doing a legitimate and honest business and fear no criticism. Have you always done the same?

SOME of the g. o. p. spell-binders are up to their old tricks—slipping out quietly to remote parts of the county and starting false stories on the candidates of the people just a few days before election, in the hope that it will be too late for such stories to be refuted. Our candidates have been before the people several months, and if there were HONEST objections to them the fact would have been known long ago. Spot the coward who starts an eleventh hour slander. We do not believe the republican candidates endorse or sanction that method of campaigning, and they should see that such work by the would-be heelers is stopped. Thus far, or up until the last week, we have heard of no "mud-slinging," and hope there will be no more of it.

THE Ellinwood Leader does not offer a single reason why a democrat, populist or silver republican should this year vote for Dick Boase or Ansel R. Clark—the Leader's two "independent" candidates. Come Cooke, we answered your query; why were you not as fair with us? It is because no sane man can give a good reason for the course suggested.

VOTE for Elmer Brodie for Register of deeds. The DEMOCRAT has not now, nor in the past a word of criticism of Mr. Hitchcock, (Grannie Townsley to the contrary notwithstanding.) We simply say that Mr. Brodie is the best qualified for the position and we believe the voters will say so at the polls next Tuesday.

"If CHRIST should visit Topeka"—but there is no possibility of any truly good people visiting the town unless compelled to on business.

"BUSY BETTY'S" COLUMN.

The old fashioned woman seryed pie every meal. The new woman says pie is not good for your digestive apparatus.

A woman flies from the ills that are to those she knows not of, when she gets a divorce from one man in order to marry another.

An exchange thinks that a boarding house keeper has as much trouble keeping peace among her boarders as the preacher has with his choir.

A fashion journal says "Bows on chairs have had their day." An exchange adds "Perhaps so; but beaux on chairs still have their nights."

It is a poor house-keeper who long permits bed-bugs to occupy rooms jointly with her. Any slouch can have an abundant supply of the aforesaid pests.

Girls are you up with the latest fad? The latest is to wear a gold powder box on a chataleine. Very Frenchy is it not? Our jeweler will need to lay in a supply.

Bertha V. Thompson, a bright young woman graduate of a Chicago medical college, is city physician of Oskosh, Wisconsin. She is the only woman physician in Oskosh.

The cute young man still goes to church occasionally, as the contribution at one of our churches showed last Sunday. Why do boys, who think they are men, stoop to putting anything but money in the basket?

Where is the boy or girl who would like to wave the old-fashioned peacock-feather fly brush while the company ate up all the good things? The use of screens seems to have caused the peacock to abandon the fly-brush business.

The Eureka Messenger says: The Hiawatha preacher who announced that "the person who lost his purse this morning can go to Helen Hunt for it," was somewhat surprised when the congregation demanded his resignation for using profane language in the pulpit.

The milliners of Hiawatha will not have a rich harvest this fall if the women of that place persist in going to church and places of amusement without hats, or removing them while at public gatherings. What woman would want to buy two or three new hats if she has to hold them in her lap when in a crowd?

Chicago has a woman street cleaner. Mrs. A. E. Paul has charge of a down town district. Her methods are very thorough. She personally superintends the work and the men attend strictly to their business, as they do not know at what moment she will drive upon them. She has a contract with the city and soon expects to have her cleaning force uniformed.

The Cleveland Leader tells of a woman who took the departure of her husband to the Alaska gold fields very philosophically. When asked if she did not fear for him to run the risk, replied "Oh, his life is insured for \$15,000! We are almost sure to strike it one way or another." Every woman should see to it that her husband has made as good a provision for her before she permits him to start for Klondyke.

The Atlanta Constitution says an old and afflicted Georgia darkey recently wrote the following unique letter to President McKinley: "Mr. McKinley: I voted fer you in de rain, from sunup to sundown. I kotched de rheumatism in my left leg, en hit's done run to my head en give me rattlin' of de brain. I never did git an rattin' en I been laid up so long dat my wife done lef' me en gone off wid a turpentine nigger. Could you please, suh, sen' me some groceries an a order to pay \$6 house rent? I wish you would, suh, if you please, suh. En please, suh, sen' me a postage stamp, so's I kin mail dis letter to you."

The Preston Plain Dealer gets off the following: "The editor of a Texas newspaper is mourning over the loss of two subscribers. One of them wrote asking how to raise his two twins safely, while the other wanted to know how to rid his orchard of grasshoppers. The

replies were sent by mail, but by accident he transposed them into wrong envelopes, so that the man with twins received this answer: "Cover them carefully with straw and set fire to it, and the little pests after jumping in the flames for a few minutes will be speedily settled," while the man with the grasshoppers was to "give castor oil and rub their gums with a cob."

I am sorry that I cannot give the proper credit to the following lines as there is more truth in them than would at first appear. Are there any boys in our town whom they would fit? "Boys with hats on the backs of their heads and long hair hanging down over their foreheads and cigarettes and very smutty stories in their foul mouths, are cheaper stuff than old worn-out horses. Nobody wants them at any price. Men will not hire them and sensible girls will not marry them. They are not worth their keeping to anyone; and it is not likely that they will ever be able to keep themselves. If any boy happens to read this, who answers to the above description, let him take a thoughtful look at himself and then go and jump in a well and say, 'Here goes nothing.'"

VOTE for Henry Schwieler, for treasurer. No man has dared to say that he is not honest, trustworthy and competent. He is not in a physical condition to drive about the country hunting votes—he is not seeking the office—but should have the loyal support of every voter who believes in the principles set forth in the Chicago platform of 1896.

ELECT Ed Tyler, an anti-ring republican, a man who believes in public economy and popular government, for county commissioner, and the board will be anti-republican for a number of years yet. With Mehrhoff, Dick and Tyler on the board there would be no possible show for the old practices to be carried on.

CLIFF DAVIS should get every vote he got two years ago, and every vote cast for Andy Geil two years ago. Should he get that vote he will be elected county clerk by upwards of 400 majority. We believe he will get it.

FROM the way some of the republican county candidates are buttonholing voters and pleading for just one more term, it would appear that they are scared out of their boots. They tell that even Sid Newcomb does not feel safe.

POLICY is the best honesty with some follows. The man who starts a cowardly, sneaking campaign story just a day or so before election, when it is too late to refute it, is that kind of a rooster.

RICE county will give Judge Foley a majority, Stafford county will give him from 300 to 600 majority, and Barton county ought to give him 400 majority.

The republican machine is spending \$3,000,000 to win the election in Greater New York. They are not spending quite that much in Barton county.

DR. BARTLE is deserving of the vote of every silver man. He is a young man, but his qualifications for the office of coroner are not questioned.

ELECT D. C. Luse as Sheriff, and safe robbers, horse stealers, and other lawbreakers will have a man up and after them in short order.

About 4 o'clock Monday afternoon an alarm of fire was sounded, calling the department and half the citizens of the town to the residence of N. S. Ream, in the south-east part of town. The fire apparently started in a closet under a stairway. There was no one at home when the fire was discovered. Mrs. Ream having been gone from the house about half an hour. The fire had got such headway that when the first parties got there and broke into the house it was so full of dense smoke that few of the household goods could be removed. Only the outer shell of the house, a story and a half frame, and little of the contents were saved. We understand that there was \$300 insurance on the house and contents.

Might get your stoves up and your coal bins filled. A cold snap is coming.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS.

No, our safes do not need cleaning, thank you.

Miss Ethel Tyndall is assisting at Mrs. E. Lowrey's.

Sunday night will be Halloween. Look out for the goblins.

John Quillen is now clerking for A. R. Moss, at the Star Grocery.

Call and get a sample copy of the DEMOCRAT. We believe you will like it.

Vote early, and help your neighbor to remember his duty as a good Kansas citizen.

Another pleasing rain Monday night and all day Tuesday. And yet there's more to follow.

Quite a number of Olmitz people attended the German picnic at Great Bend Sunday.

Bob Brown and family are visiting the Koen Ranch, in Colorado for a couple of months.

Miss Hallie Tyler is still very low, with nothing promising or hopeful to her parents and friends.

FOR SALE or Rent, Lot 3, block 38, Great Bend. Will sell or rent cheap. Enquire of Fred Zutavern.

Come to town Saturday and hear Jerry Simpson roast the gold-bugs. You all know he can do it.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Parker, of Hoisington, were visiting in town Friday and Saturday of last week.

McCray's band will furnish music for the rally in Great Bend Saturday. Come out, and have a good time.

Miss Jennie Montgomery, of Pueblo, Colo., came down last week on a visit to Mrs. George Meacham of this city.

Newt Tindall came down last week from the west part of the state, and will remain at home now for a while.

M. M. Osborne, of the Ellinwood Advocate, was in town Saturday last, and dropped in to see the "DEMOCRAT."

Two full car loads of grapes, shipped clear from New York and sold on this market, is not bad for "bleeding Kansas."

George Kincaid is now fairly established as proprietor of the Morrison. F. B. Patterson is his gentlemanly clerk.

Little Grace, daughter of C. S. Allison, has had another very bad sick spell, but is now reported on the improve.

How long does a republican have to live away from Great Bend before he loses his residence? Two years, or four years?

The county seems to be full of the light fingered gentry. Keep your hand on your pocket-book, and don't carry any money in it.

N. S. Hayse, formerly of this city but now of Marion, Kansas, was out the first of the week to see old friends. He reports the family all well.

Jacob Hahn was up from Ellinwood last Thursday, shaking hands with old friends here. Mr. Hahn goes—with the crowd—on our subscription list.

Henry C. Cook has had the misfortune to lose a lot of his young calves the past week, with a disease that in some particulars resembles blackleg.

FOR SALE—At a bargain, Fruit, Vegetable and Feed business, in a live town. Reason, am compelled to go east on other business. Address: N. COSSMAN, LaCrosse, Kansas.

Miss Francis Kauzer, of Lakin township, was doing shopping in Great Bend Thursday. We suspect that the next time that she visits the city it will be as—somebody else.

The DEMOCRAT office will print the "Grand Opera House Program" for play season of 1898-8. The columns of the Program is the place to place your local announcements to Great Bend people.

We have a little boat, we expect to set afloat, on a voyage that will make the gold-bugs shiver. 'Twill be pulled by Hanna's tugs, will be loaded with gold-bugs, and its voyage will be up salt river.

E. H. Shirk, formerly of the Santa Fe at this point, was drawn out this way again the first of the week by a certain attraction that is not to be resisted by any young man of good judgement.

If the signs do not fail, Sid Newcomb will be the only man our friends the republicans will have left in the court house for seed, after next Tuesday. And Sid says he has not met an encouraging word in this campaign.